

## Quantum, MIT Press Accept Card

By Nathan Collins  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The MIT card is gaining in acceptance among local businesses, but restaurants and the MIT Coop will not soon be joining their ranks.

Quantum Books and the MIT Press Bookstore have joined the TechCASH program, an improved version of last year's meal card system. LaVerde's Market began accepting TechCASH near the end of last semester, along with all

campus dining locations. "We've been asking for it for fourteen, fifteen years," said LaVerde's manager Marc Semon. "As pleased as we are, the students

TechCASH, Page 9



Rebecca A. Kumik '03 makes a purchase at LaVerde's Market using her MIT card. Quantum Books and the MIT Press Bookstore have also joined the TechCASH system.

## Pass Rate On FEE Hits 3 of 4

By Eun J. Lee  
FEATURES EDITOR

Three out of four freshmen who took this year's Freshman Essay Evaluation received passing grades, up from 59 percent last year.

In addition to the MIT freshmen who took the test, students from several other colleges took the online essay evaluation this year, as the result of a project sponsored by the MIT-Microsoft iCampus Alliance.

"There's significant national interest in the online system developed here, because it is a highly effective way for colleges to evaluate incoming students online," said Leslie C. Perelman, director of writing across the curriculum and principal investigator for the iCampus project.

Three of four freshmen pass FEE.

In total, 592 of the 816 freshmen who took the FEE, or 73 per-

FEE, Page 9

## Freshmen Meet FSILGs at Rush Midway

By Brian Lóux  
NEWS EDITOR

Freshmen swarmed the first three floors of the Student Center last night while attending the Welcome Dinner Post-Party sponsored by MIT's Fraternities, Sororities, and

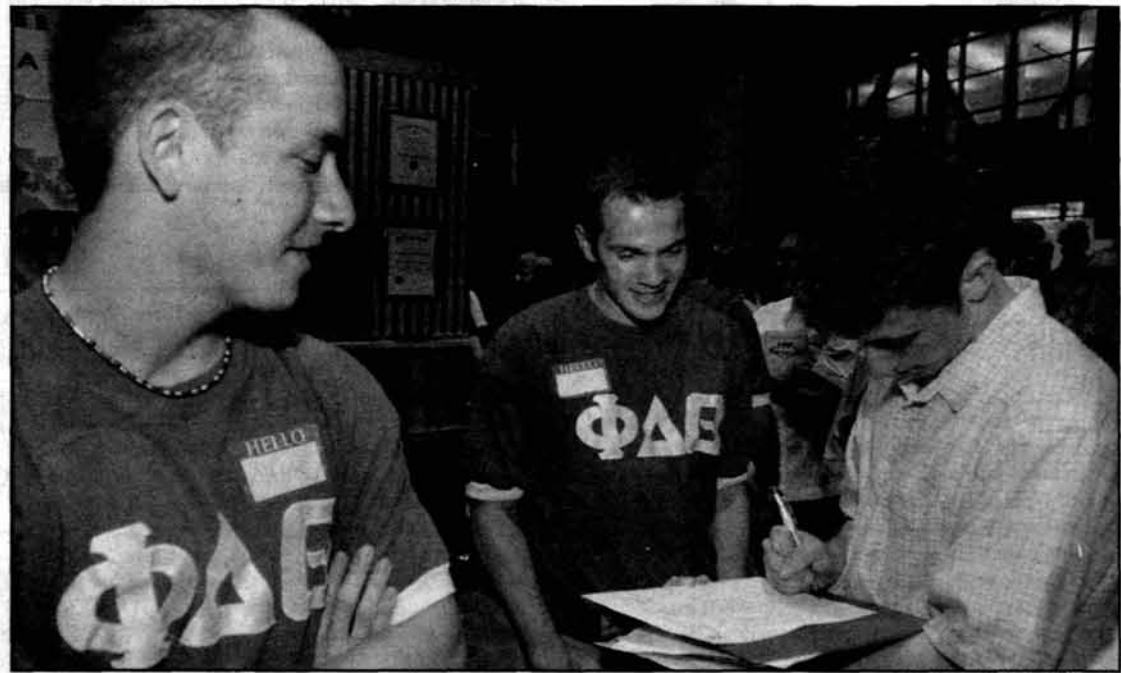
Independent Living Groups.

Despite initial worry that the FSILGs would spark little interest this year, the building was mobbed. "I came to see what the fraternities were like and to meet the people," said Timothy C. Davenport '06.

"[The freshmen] have nothing else to do ... and everyone heard about it during the [Welcome Dinner]," said Amy R. Lam '06.

In addition to a midway with 32

FSILGs, Page 10



Jeremy A. Conrad '06 provides Andrew W. Houston '05 and Christopher C. Simeone '05 of Phi Delta Theta with his personal information at Tuesday night's FSILG-sponsored Welcome Dinner Post-Party. Fraternities collected information from freshmen in order to inform them about future rush events.

A rape victim discusses sexual abuse and rape prevention with members of the Class of 2006.



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OPINION

Andrew C. Thomas and Allison C. Lewis discuss dating prospects for freshmen at MIT.

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## EC Protest Displays Fissures Over Rush

By Sandra M. Chung  
CHAIRMAN

Tempers flared after members of East Campus and Senior House protested a scheduled Orientation event on Sunday, and the dormitory's presence at that day's residence midway was briefly imperiled.

The clashes have revealed deep fissures between students and the MIT administrators responsible for Orientation, who say they feel betrayed by the unraveling of agreements with student leaders.

The students, meanwhile, expressed frustration with an administration they perceive as trying to eviscerate rush.

Senior House President Daniel E. McAnulty '04 said that Assistant Dean of New Student Programs Elizabeth C. Young became upset after he and other protesters handed out flyers at Sunday's PlayFair asking freshmen, "[A]re you a fucking baby? [T]hen what the hell are you doing at a play-fair?"

According to McAnulty, Young then threatened to revoke East Campus' space at the Residence Midway. McAnulty described the incident in a widely-circulated e-

mail sent to various dormitory mailing lists Monday morning.

Young declined to comment.

Protest prompts meeting

East Campus' residence midway space was not revoked, after an emergency meeting immediately after the PlayFair and before the Residence Midway Sunday night.

The meeting included midway coordinators Sherri E. Davidoff '03, Grace R. Kessenich '03, and Tyler J. Bronder '03 as well as Associate Dean for Student Life Barbara A. Baker, Residential Life Associate Anthony E. Gray PhD '01, and Assistant Dean of Residential Programs Katherine G. O'Dair.

Baker said she and the other administrators used the meeting to express their feeling of betrayal because, in their view, an agreement reached with student leaders in the Residential System Implementation Team had unraveled.

In an open letter to freshmen, published in *The Tech* Sunday, Dormcon wrote that it "will not limit the times at which dorms can hold events — even if they conflict with other scheduled Orientation sessions."

"I was very disappointed that some of the agreements that had been reached in the RSIT team process, as I understood them, were not honored," Baker said.

But Kessenich, who was a member of the RSIT, registered displeasure with the way Rush has unfolded this year. The protests weren't "a personal attack against any people," she said. "It's about the way Orientation was scheduled. Since the beginning we kept saying, 'We need more time for dorm events,' and they said no or didn't listen."

Housemasters meet on protests

Senior House Housemasters Henry and Cynthia Jenkins attended another impromptu meeting with Baker, Redwine, and Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict on Monday morning.

During the meeting, Benedict and Baker discussed the right of the students to protest, Henry Jenkins later wrote in an e-mail to dormitory mailing lists.

"Clearly MIT is the kind of place where the right to protest is part of our community," Baker said in an interview.

"The central concerns are not with the protest per se but with when, where, and how it is conducted," Jenkins wrote.

"They stated that they would

Protest, Page 8



# WORLD & NATION

## U.S. Developing Post-Castro Contingency Plans

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Bush administration, convinced that Fidel Castro's regime could collapse at any time, has begun developing plans to help Cuba manage a change in government and nudge the aging president's successor toward a U.S.-style system.

Administration officials say they are trying to chart how they would react if the Cuban leader's death, for example, opened the way for a leadership more sympathetic to the United States. And they are considering what they would do if it set off a mass migration toward Florida that the United States would have to head off.

From President Bush down, the administration "has come to a realization that we need to be more vigorous in thinking through what we would do in any number of contingencies," said a senior administration official who asked to remain unidentified. "We have a number of interests in play."

Many analysts say the government that succeeds Castro might permit additional limited free enterprise — perhaps focusing on small businesses — as a way of turning around the impoverished island's economy. But many also believe that it would resist political reform.

## Jet Gets Military Escort After 'Misunderstanding'

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Two F-16 fighter jets escorted a US Airways jet to Baltimore-Washington International Airport Tuesday after a "misunderstanding" between the pilot and air traffic controllers over whether the plane had been hijacked, airline and airport officials said.

US Airways spokesman David Castelveter wouldn't comment on what the pilot said that caused air traffic controllers concern, saying that to do so would reveal airline security procedures.

"It was a misunderstanding by the controllers over what our pilot in the cockpit said," Castelveter said. "They were worried about a potential security threat."

Flight 1814 had left Charlotte shortly after 8 a.m. with 44 passengers and was scheduled to land at BWI about 9:35 a.m. At 9:12 a.m., the two F-16s were launched from Andrews Air Force Base and intercepted the airliner in "very short order," said Air Force Maj. Ed Thomas, a spokesman for the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado.

## Reno Schools Settle Gay-Rights Suit

LOS ANGELES TIMES

School authorities in Reno, Nev., agreed Tuesday to a wide-ranging settlement of a gay-rights lawsuit, instituting a stringent anti-harassment policy and paying \$451,000 to a gay youth who was driven from local schools.

The settlement is "the first in the country to recognize the constitutional right of gay and lesbian youth to be open about their sexual orientation in schools and to be protected from discrimination and harassment by other students," according to lawyers for the youth, Derek R. Henkle.

A spokesman for the Washoe County, Nev., School District, agreed, saying the district's new policy allows gay students to speak out and prohibits harassment that creates "an intimidating, hostile or offensive school environment."

The policy grants gays, as others, freedom of expression to take part in student activities, voice their opinions in school publications, enter election campaigns and participate in student clubs. It prohibits anyone from taking actions that "cause a substantial disruption of or material interference with school activities" or are "vulgar, lewd, obscene or plainly offensive."

# Bush Fails to Capture Saudi Support for Possible Attack

By Edwin Chen

LOS ANGELES TIMES

CRAWFORD, TEXAS

President Bush met with Saudi Arabia's ambassador Tuesday to mend frayed relations between their two governments but failed to win Saudi support for the possible use of military force to oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

A day after Vice President Dick Cheney made the administration's most compelling case yet for a "regime change" in Baghdad, the Saudis forcefully stated anew their opposition to achieving that aim through military action.

Even before the president welcomed Prince Bandar ibn Sultan and six of his eight children to his Texas ranch, a senior Saudi official in Washington declared that the Bush administration still has not made a cogent case for a pre-emptive strike against Hussein. Instead, Adel Jabeir, foreign policy adviser to Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Abdullah, called for a concerted diplomatic initiative.

"We don't believe that people

have thought through all of the consequences of that," Jubeir said on CNN.

He said the Saudis agree that Hussein is a threat, but added: "What exactly will it take to deal with it? How many troops? Who's going to pay for it? Where are they going to land? How many years will they have to occupy Iraq? How do you stabilize the country? Are the Kurds going to seek their own state? Is this going to make the Turks nervous? Is this going to destabilize Iran?"

Many U.S. lawmakers of both parties — and American allies around the world — are posing similar questions even as the administration this week escalated its saber-rattling.

Jubeir's comments also stressed that the Saudis, who were key participants in the 1991 Persian Gulf War against Hussein, are unwilling to do the same now. Saudi officials have been "very clear on this with your government for a long time," he said.

Bush, during his conversation

with Bandar, insisted he has made no decisions about how to proceed against Hussein, White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer said.

But, Fleischer added, "The president made very clear again that he believes that Saddam Hussein is a menace to world peace, a menace to regional peace."

Cheney, in an address Monday to veterans in Nashville, said only a pre-emptive strike against Iraq could prevent it from acquiring nuclear weapons "fairly soon." He also argued that ousting Hussein could bring more stability to the Middle East and enhance the chances of peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Cheney's comments were widely seen as an administration response to skepticism some lawmakers and former foreign policy officials have expressed about the wisdom of military action against Hussein.

Also, some Bush supporters have complained that the administration needed to make a more forceful case for such a policy.

# Top Al-Qaida Officials, Fighters Harbored in Iran Border Cities

By Peter Finn

THE WASHINGTON POST

JIDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA

Two figures who have assumed critical roles in the al-Qaida hierarchy in recent months, including one reported dead by the Pentagon, are being sheltered in Iran along with dozens of other al-Qaida fighters in hotels and guesthouses in the border cities of Mashhad and Zabol, according to Arab intelligence sources.

The two — Saif al-Adel, an Egyptian on the FBI's most-wanted list, and Mahfouz Ould Walid, also known as Abu Hafz the Mauritanian, whom U.S. officials reported had been killed near the eastern Afghan city of Khost in January — are directly involved in planning al-Qaida terrorist operations, according to the intelligence sources, who are outside Saudi Arabia and didn't want their names or countries disclosed.

With Osama bin Laden and his second-in-command, Ayman Zawahiri, in hiding, the sources said, and with the death of the former military chief, Muhammad Atef, the two have assumed operational control of al-Qaida's military committee, which directs attacks, and its ideological or religious committee, which issues fatwas, or statements, to justify those attacks.

The idea of the transfer of power arose after the attacks in New York and at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, when it became apparent to al-Qaida that the United States might attack Afghanistan and capture or kill some of its senior leaders, the sources said. The need to put the transfer into practice became even more apparent in March with the capture in Pakistan of Abu Zubaida, a Palestinian and senior al-Qaida planner.

The sources also said that one of bin Laden's sons, Saad, who's in his

early twenties, is being groomed as his father's successor because of the symbolism offered by the idea of a dynasty. And while the sources said that Saad hasn't assumed a formal position, he has increasingly been communicating with operatives worldwide in order to burnish his standing with them.

Dozens of other al-Qaida fighters, and possibly more, are also staying in a cluster of hotels in Mashhad, in northeastern Iran near the borders with Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, and in guesthouses in Zabol, about 400 miles farther south on the Iranian-Afghan border, the sources said.

The report from these sources supported the Bush administration's long-standing assertion that Iran — or at least hard-liners in the conservative clerical line of authority that controls the army and intelligence services — is harboring al-Qaida fighters.

## WEATHER

### Needed Rain on the Way

By Michael J. Ring

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

After several days of clear skies for the first half of Orientation, stormier weather is on the way. A weak disturbance which has been parked over the Southeast for the past few days will finally slide northeastward today, bringing rain to Washington this morning and New York this evening. Today should be dry in Boston, but the storm will arrive here by Thursday morning, bringing showers to the region. As this system is slow moving, do not be surprised if rain showers last through Friday as well.

While the rain may complicate any outdoor plans for the end of Orientation, it will be quite beneficial for the region. Drought fears from early spring were allayed by above-average precipitation in May and June, but July and August have been drier than normal and the precipitation deficit has again widened. A few days of rain showers should help alleviate the shortfall.

#### Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny early, but clouding up during the afternoon. Cool with the high only reaching 70°F (21°C).

Tonight: Cloudy with rain showers toward dawn. Low near 58°F (14°C).

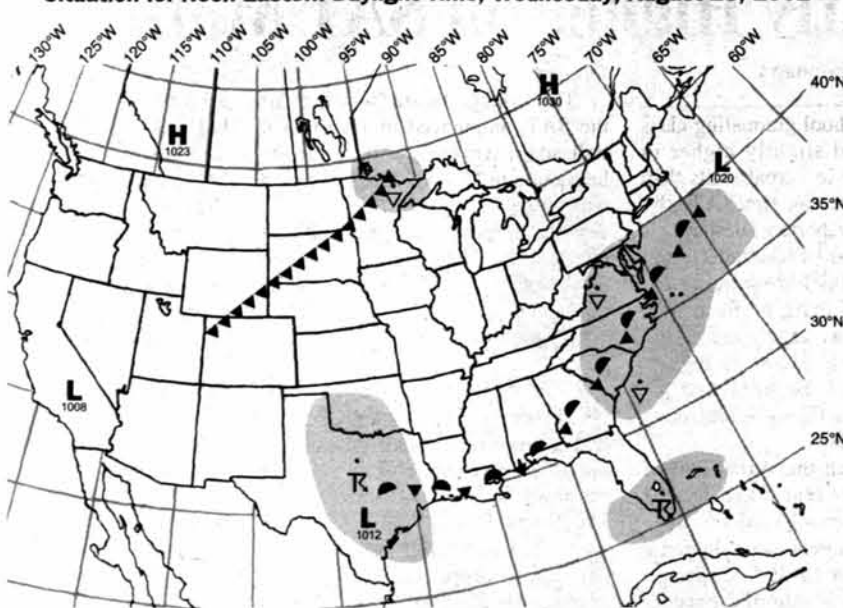
Thursday: Showers likely. Continued cool with a high near 65°F (18°C).

Thursday night: Continued chance of showers. Low near 58°F (14°C).

Friday: Lingering showers early, then clearing in the evening. High near 72°F (22°C) and low near 57°F (14°C).

Saturday: Partly cloudy with continued below-normal temperatures. High again near 72°F (22°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Wednesday, August 28, 2002



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Shows Snow	Fog
L Low Pressure	--- Warm Front	Light Rain	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front	Moderate	Haze
	▲▲ Stationary Front	Heavy	

Compiled by MIT  
Meteorology Staff  
and The Tech



# Fiscal Budget Experts Predict Larger Deficit Than Expected

By Warren Vieth

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Congressional budget experts warned Tuesday that the government's fiscal outlook is deteriorating, and they forecast deficits that will be deeper and longer than the Bush administration is projecting.

Instead of the three-year, \$322 billion shortfall predicted by the White House last month, the government will post four consecutive deficits totaling \$452 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The main factor in recent months has been a sharp drop in federal tax collections, the biggest since special wartime levies were lifted in 1946. The current fall-off has been caused in large part by the effect of the stock market's declines on payments of capital gains taxes. At today's prices, fewer shareholders are recording profits when they sell.

More red ink could flow if the economy grows slower than expect-

ed or if lawmakers approve new tax cuts, extend prescription drug coverage to Medicare participants, or boost other spending.

The revival of deficit spending after four years of surpluses may increase the anxiety level of Americans already troubled by the residue of last year's recession and the stock market's big declines earlier this year. That, in turn, could affect the outcome of this fall's midterm congressional elections, in which control of both the Senate and the House is up for grabs.

The backlash could be magnified this year if enough voters accept Democratic arguments that Bush and congressional Republicans mortgaged the Treasury and jeopardized Social Security by pushing through a 10-year, \$1.35 trillion tax cut last year.

"This has got to be a concern to the White House going into the midterm election," said Kim Wallace, chief political analyst for Lehman Brothers, the big investment banking firm. "It has a strong

probability of being the leading factor in decisions made on Nov. 5."

Bush and his fellow Republicans argue the initial stages of the tax cut eased the recession that was beginning just as the administration took office. They blame the deficits on the recession, the economic impact of the Sept. 11 attacks and the cost of the U.S. response to the terrorism.

The CBO's new deficit calculations could increase pressure to rescind some of future tax cuts approved by Congress last year, particularly those targeted at upper-income households. Similarly, it will make it more difficult to win support for new spending initiatives.

The revised budget estimates reflect an unusually rapid decline in the government's fiscal outlook. Early last year, CBO officials predicted the government would take in \$5.6 trillion more than it spent from 2002 through 2011. On Tuesday, it said Washington would finish the decade only \$336 billion ahead of the game.

## Zambian Government Refuses U.S. Donations of Gene-Altered Corn

By Davan Maharaj  
and Anthony Mukwita

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SHIMBABALA, ZAMBIA

After waiting for seven hours under the sizzling African sun, John Shikuboni had hoped to fill his empty sack with free corn stored in a warehouse here.

But an aid official told Shikuboni and about 200 other hungry men, women and children that he could no longer distribute the corn because the Zambian government had ruled that the genetically modified grain was not safe for them.

"Please give us the food," pleaded an elderly blind man wearing a threadbare shirt. "We don't care if it is poisonous because we are dying anyway."

Many Zambians in rural areas have resorted to eating leaves, twigs and even poisonous berries and nuts to cope with the worst food crisis in a decade hitting southern Africa. Still, their government is refusing to accept donations of genetically modified corn that the United Nations and other aid agencies say could help ease the starvation and suffering of about 2.5 million Zambians.

The United States, United

Nations and humanitarian groups insist that the U.S.-donated corn is safe and identical to grain consumed daily by people in the United States, Canada and other countries. But Zambian officials say they fear the gene-altered corn poses health risks to their citizens.

"We would rather starve than get something toxic," said Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa, who declared a food emergency here three months ago.

Privately, aid officials say the Zambian government is looking a gift horse in the mouth. The Bush administration has dispatched to Zambia its top aid official, U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Andrew Natsios, to persuade Mwanawasa to accept the food.

Wednesday, Natsios is expected to meet Mwanawasa in Lusaka, the Zambian capital.

"I'm going to tell him he needs to reverse that decision," Natsios said in a telephone interview. "It's endangering people's lives and we're going to have massive losses of life if this policy remains in place."

A savage confluence of events — drought, bad governance and disease — means about 13 million peo-

ple in six southern Africa countries face starvation. Many of them now rely on rations from the U.N. food agency to survive.

U.N. officials say they need \$500 million to avert a famine. So far, the United States has been the most willing donor, shipping a few hundred thousand tons of food to southern Africa.

But the U.S. gifts have ignited a debate in the region about the safety of grain whose genes have been modified to produce higher yields and bolster resistance to drought, diseases or herbicides.

Leaders of several African countries say they find themselves in a dilemma: Feed their people food they believe causes allergic reactions or let them die. Agricultural officials also worry that the grain would be planted and, through cross-pollination, contaminate their natural varieties.

Lesotho, Malawi and Swaziland agreed to accept the U.S. donations after the World Health Organization — and several U.S. agencies — certified the U.S. corn as safe. Zimbabwe and Mozambique also accepted the grain on the condition that it would be milled before distribution to prevent people from planting it.

## Nation's High School Graduates Score Slightly Higher on SAT Math Section

By Rebecca Trounson

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The high school graduating class of 2002 scored slightly higher in math but lower in verbal skills than last year's class on the SAT, the College Board reported Tuesday.

College Board President Gaston Caperton applauded students for their improved math performance, noting that the average score rose 2 points this year to 516 — its highest level since 1969. He attributed the gain to students taking more rigorous math courses.

But scores on the verbal part of the high-stakes test taken by 1.3 million high school students have stalled in recent years, and dipped 2 points this year to 504. Caperton urged U.S. high schools, parents and students to place renewed emphasis on reading, composition and grammar.

"As a nation, we need to focus on helping students improve their reading and writing skills," he said at a Washington, D.C., news con-

ference.

The College Board, which owns the SAT, announced in June that it will add a writing test to the exam beginning in March 2005. The move was propelled in part by the University of California, the SAT's biggest client, which had threatened to scrap the test in favor of developing one of its own.

Students don't read as much or as deeply in high school as they used to, several educators said. "What we have now is a population that is very responsive to imagery but losing its capacity to use and respond to words," said Carol Muske-Dukes, a University of Southern California English professor who directs the university's graduate writing program. "When you lose the capacity to read deeply, you lose the capacity to think."

In other trends, female students this year narrowed the gap between their overall scores and those of male students, but only

slightly. Males outscored females by 39 points on the combined verbal and math portions of the SAT, down from 42 points last year. Math scores accounted for most of the difference, as in previous years.

Critics said the persistent gap should raise questions about the fairness of the test, which is used by the majority of the nation's top colleges and universities as a criterion for admission.

"It just galls me that a test that purports to predict how students will perform in college continues to show that women do worse even though they do so much better in college," said Paul Kanarek, who heads the Orange County, Calif., office of the Princeton Review, which prepares students for the SAT.

Female students, he and others noted, receive better grades than men in high school and college and should thus outperform them on the SAT and other exams, they say.

## U.N. Officials Call Taliban Probe Difficult

LOS ANGELES TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

The chief U.N. official in Afghanistan said Tuesday that there is no chance soon of a thorough, impartial investigation in the alleged murder last fall of Taliban soldiers, which might implicate troops loyal to one of the country's most powerful warlords, Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Afghanistan must become far more orderly and stable before the alleged perpetrators can be pursued without endangering the lives of witnesses who remain in the area, said United Nations special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi.

"Politics is the art of the possible," he said.

In other areas, however, Brahimi praised the progress of the transitional Afghan government led by interim Prime Minister Hamid Karzai as it seeks to consolidate peace and establish order in a devastated country that had known more than two decades of war.

Despite a spate of recent minor explosions in the edgy Afghan capital, including one outside a U.N. residence Sunday, government and international authorities believe Kabul is becoming safe enough to soon lift its midnight to 4 a.m. curfew, Brahimi said.

And training of new police and army forces, if it continues apace, should allow the country to stand on its own within two years, he said.

## Acela Cracks May Recur

THE WASHINGTON POST

Trying to fix the cracked brackets that have sidelined its lucrative Acela trains, Amtrak is relying on around-the-clock welding and rigorous inspections after every run while it waits for a permanent solution.

One by one, the popular high-speed trains are being returned to service in the Northeast corridor. But because the root cause of the problem remains undiscovered, experts say, the cracks may well return, which could draw Amtrak into a disruptive cycle of cancellations and repairs.

"There may be additional cracks down the road," said Cliff Black, an Amtrak spokesman. "We'll cross that bridge when we get to it."

Amtrak and Acela's manufacturer, Bombardier Transportation of North America, are still investigating the cause of the cracks, which mechanics discovered two weeks ago on steel brackets attaching a shock absorber system to the body of 36 Acela locomotives and 15 nearly new high-horsepower conventional locomotives. They later found additional cracks on the locomotives' steel frames, all of them located near the damaged brackets.

The railroad pulled its entire Acela Express fleet — 18 trains each pulled by two locomotives — out of service last week to begin repairs. On Wednesday, Amtrak will run seven of the high-speed trains, making a total of 23 departures, about half of its normal 50 on a weekday.

## Men Reported Missing After 9/11 Found in Hospitals

LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW YORK

Two men who were reported missing after the World Trade Center attacks have been found alive in New York hospitals, according to officials with the New York City Medical Examiner's office.

George Sims, 46, was identified by photographs and DNA samples sent to the hospital earlier this month after officials alerted his mother, Newark, N.J., resident Anna Sims, that they believed her son was in their care.

Albert Vaughan, 45, a homeless man from Brooklyn, will also be removed from the official list of those missing. Family members recently discovered that Vaughan was being treated in an upstate New York psychiatric hospital.

"We've had many cases of people initially thought to be missing who were later found and taken off the list, but I can't recall anything quite like this," said Ellen Borakove, spokeswoman for the medical examiner's office. In these two cases, she noted, "somebody missing on Sept. 11 has been found long after the fact in a hospital."

Sims' mother, who first told the story of his discovery to the Newark Star Ledger, was reluctant to give many details about her son's life. But she said that he had been "selling things" near the World Trade Center on Sept. 11. When the family failed to hear from him after several weeks, they contacted New York police on Oct. 7 to list him as missing.

## Dogs, Cats May Help Prevent Allergies, Study Shows

THE BALTIMORE SUN

The truth about cat and dog allergies might be the opposite of what experts have long suspected, according to a new study. Raising children alongside the furry companions might reduce rather than increase the likelihood that they will break out in itching and sneezing fits.

Not only that, but the study of 474 youngsters in suburban Detroit found that those raised from birth in households with two or more cats or dogs were also less likely to develop allergies to pollen, mold and grasses.

The finding, being published in Wednesday's edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association, clashes with conventional wisdom about pet allergies, which holds that children are more likely to develop reactions the more they are exposed to the animals.

"For 30 years, physicians in general have been taught that early exposure to cats and dogs is more likely to increase the risk that a child will develop allergy to cats and dogs," said Dr. Dennis Ownby, an allergist with the Medical College of Georgia, who directed the study. "What we found was just the opposite."

The finding, although preliminary, suggests that an early dose of dog or cat dander might somehow tweak the immune system in a way that keeps it from mounting the exaggerated response to irritants that can cause allergic symptoms.



# OPINION



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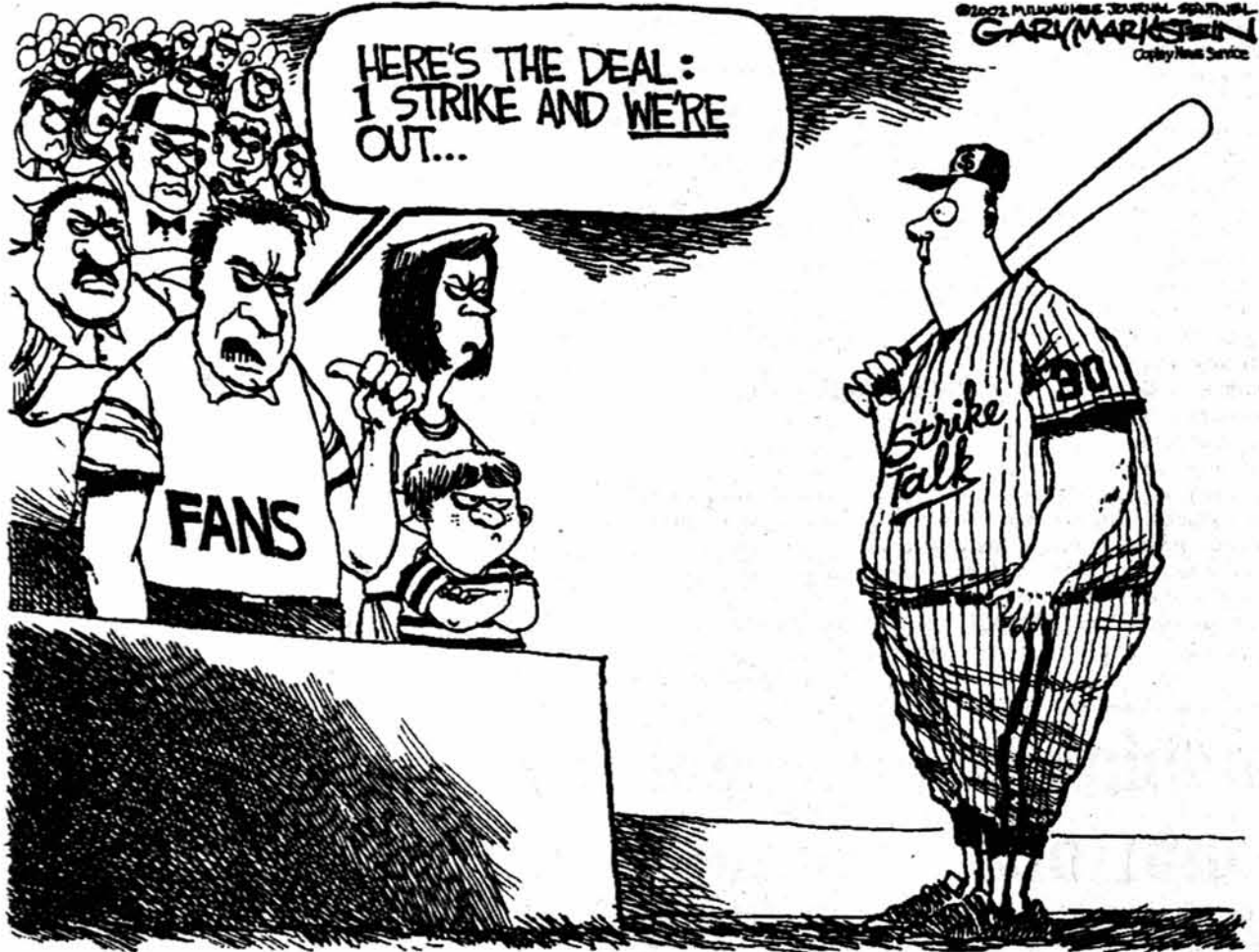
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# Warning Signs

Andrew C. Thomas

I always look forward to the beginning of the school year with mixed feelings. Apart from the impending agony of new classes and expenses, there's always a mix of interesting experiences that each student feels on returning to the river's edge.

The experience most evident to me, however, is shared by many male upperclassmen. Freshman fever, give it any name you wish — in the end, the idea is the same. The opportunity of a new, large group of girls arriving on campus is — pardon the possibly misogynist pun — too much stimulation for many men. This time can cause them to act crazier — and more deviantly — than if they simply had spring fever.

Fortunately, there are several warning signs of this condition that girls can watch for.

The "Sketchy Guy Lean." Watch for this technique at parties and gatherings. The man places his forearm flat against a nearby wall, leans against it and tilts his head slightly forward. With this position, taller guys then appear to hover over their targets. The effect, so I'm told, can be both enticing and creepy at the same time. Do NOT confuse this for a state of mild inebriation, unless you detect that subtle, tell-tale hint of alcohol on his breath — or he misses the wall entirely and falls over.

The "Carefully Rehearsed Bad Pick-up Line." While I'm sure the majority of people don't take this seriously — at least, for the sake of common sense, I hope they don't — it can be a sneaky way of winning false trust, much like a hungry puppy dog. While it might not win complete trust — in fact, I doubt it ever would — it can often disarm a person and open them up to the real sludge. Thankfully, its success is limited — I know only a limited few girls who would hold their beautiful bodies against this particular specimen.

The "Dog-Eared Facebook." While this sign cannot usually be detected immediately, it certainly is a tell-tale sign of a predator. A Freshman Facebook in the possession of an upperclassman usually means either that they haven't moved beyond a kindergarten need for a book with pictures, or they're trying to get in the meat market through the back door. A Facebook that looks like it's gone through a good deal of use suggests either that he's sharing with

friends, or has turned it into his personal Bible. I know I can't blame people for being superficial — I'm equally guilty of it frequently enough — but I look upon anyone with skepticism who makes this choice based on a black and white picture and two randomly chosen interests.

*The 'Carefully Rehearsed Bad Pick-up Line.' While I'm sure the majority of people don't take this seriously — at least, for the sake of common sense, I hope they don't — it can be a sneaky way of winning false trust, much like a hungry puppy dog.*

The "151." Come to think of it, the act of getting girls drunk — and quickly — with spiked drinks (thanks to the wonders of Jamaican rum and grain alcohol) is far too despicable for the average horny guy — and occasionally wades into murky legal waters. In no way do I wish to associate this behavior with the general population. (You all know who you are, anyway.)

Gwyneth Paltrow was recently quoted as saying that, in the pursuit of women, (American) men go for the female jugular. I'm always amazed by the persistence of the male upperclassman population in the hunt. Not to



say that this pursuit is any less strong than at some other times of year — in general, it's just so much more entertaining to watch it in action. I hope that the freshman girl population will take this baptism by fire in stride and come away from it with a little experience — and an improved understanding of seasonal male tendencies.

# Thirteen Ways the Pick-Up Line Wins

Allison C. Lewis

Hey Mom, Well, I'm here at MIT. I've moved into my room, bought my books, and met lots of interesting new people. Guys mostly. I know you told me to watch out for them not to get involved with any jerks. But what's so wrong with dating jerks anyway?

Because I've about had it looking for a "nice MIT boy" to date. It's really quite a shame that, around here, "nice" and "non-jerky" is synonymous with "weird."

Brett, the first guy I met, had a hamster collection and hated dogs. He said, "There are two kinds of people in the world. Those who prefer more peanut butter and those who prefer more jelly. Which one are you?" I said "jelly" and he told me I wasn't his type. Would I like to meet his roommate?

*In the gym one morning, a bronzed, greasy guy in a purple wife-beater introduced himself as 'Tony the Tiger,' and showed me his leopard skin boxers. He asked me to dinner, but instead of picking me up at 6 p.m., he called and said he needed to take a nap.*

cutout of Prince in a purple jumpsuit (it didn't quite belong in the center of his room) and he said Marilyn had a thing for Prince.

I spent an evening with Hans, Fernando, Elmer, Patrick, and Abdul, discussing and playing jazz in their frat house basement. I thought they were cool until Elmer, who wore his hair in tiny beaded braids, insisted Miles Davis was God. The guys had formed a group to worship him, called the Jazz Purists, and did I want to join, because if so, I had to learn some essential chords. I told them sorry, but no.

I met a guy named Sue, a stereotypical MIT dork with a pocket protector, who had memorized the first 500 digits of pi. He bought me lunch and told me all about the chemical (almost magical!) makeup of silly putty. You know, it's really a wonderful thing it bounces like rubber, is water-resistant, and shatters like glass when it's hit by a sledgehammer. Sue demonstrated this for me.

In the gym one morning, a bronzed, greasy guy in a purple wife-beater introduced himself as "Tony the Tiger," and showed me his leopard skin boxers. He asked me to dinner, but instead of picking me up at 6 p.m., he called and said he needed to take a nap. He had strained his entire body (fingers, toes, and all) from the workout that morning.

Butch wore a navy bowtie and spoke fourteen different languages (including several rare African ones), all at once. I thought he was funny (and cute, with red, curly hair) but he hardly spoke a word of English until he pinched my arm and said, "Does that hurt?" I still have a bruise.

Otto arrived at my door dressed in a tuxedo and said, "Hi darling. Nice hair, but pink is definitely not your color." At dinner, he said I was just like his mom and insisted I pay, because she always does.

Jasper picked me up in a red convertible, handed me a rose, and took me shopping. He wore Giorgio Armani sunglasses, a gold chain around his neck, leather boots, and a long ponytail down his back. He enjoyed the shopping more than I did (and I didn't think that was possible).

Just when I'd lost all hope, I ran into Bill in a bar off campus. He was wearing an ironed Polo shirt, and khakis, and he had gel in his hair. He leaned against a wall, tilted his head forward, and said to me, "Sweetie, when you walked in, the whole room lit up." He offered me a drink and asked what bra size I wear.

I think I'm in love with him now.



Brandon, wearing a business suit, squeezed my hand hard, and introduced himself as a "Libertarian-Fascist-Nazi." I said, isn't that redundant? So he explained each word to me. After showing me his gun collection, he asked me to marry him (he thought I'd make the perfect wife) and live with him in the utopia he will one day build, with only beautiful people and purebred dogs.

Rico, the guy next door, had a tattoo of an angel (named Elvira) on his neck and a collection of nunchucks, hatchets, and Marilyn Manson posters. I asked him about the cardboard

# Will Yao Continue to Wow?

Philip Burrowes

Anyone who has been anticipating the forthcoming World Basketball Championships has no doubt heard what NBA Defensive Player of the Year Ben Wallace has promised to do to China's 7'5" Yao Ming: "beat him up pretty bad." Why, exactly, Yao is receiving such enmity from a soon-to-be peer is not so well known. Claiming to provide a "Welcome to the league, welcome to our country," as Wallace did, is not a satisfactory reason. First of all, the Worlds will be played under FIBA (think FIFA, but basketball), not NBA, rules. Secondly, while the games are being played in the United States, this tournament has been historically overlooked by Americans, who choose to believe the NBA Finals are world championships in and of themselves. Nor do any of the other "obvious" explanations of jealousy, jingoism, or merely juvenile jock antics suffice. Incoming students should note that some of the greatest animosity against them can result of their own good intentions.

Let us first get the red herring of racism — which most people would rather not discuss — out of the way. One might imagine that because Wallace did not threaten Brazil's Nene Hilario — before Hilario withdrew from the Worlds — he is employing some double standard. Hilario is younger than Yao and perhaps even less "proven" through the American system, but unlike Yao he fits the stereotypical baller image. Ben Wallace, like any other

human being, may or may not be a racist, but it is highly unlikely that his words were dictated solely by racial animosity. If that were true, why no comments on Denver's Mengke Bateer or Dallas' Wang Zhizhi? Maybe Wallace is one of those sophisticated racists, and distinguishes Bateer's Mongolian and Wang's Beijing births, from the more cosmopolitan image of Yao's Shanghai home. Perhaps they're not just big enough targets for Wallace, but that at least shows us there is another element.

Neither Bateer nor Wang were especially hyped within the United States, except for the collective attention they received along with Yao as the "Walking Great Wall" at Sydney. Media coverage and internal expectations do not a player make, however (ask Harold Minor). Those with the greatest potential are often the ones who are given the longest "free ride" of development time (ask any high schooler post-Kobe Bryant). Unlike the foreign-born big men of the past, such as Patrick Ewing and Yao's supposed idol Hakeem Olajuwon, Yao enters the league at a time where it's almost common place for rookies to post minimal

numbers, and if he does have an immediate impact it may be to the detriment of his future with the team (ask any Rookies of the Year since Elton Brand/Steve Francis).

Tim Duncan was born outside of the country (sort of; no offense to anyone else who hails from St. Croix) and became star player upon entrance into the NBA, but he is one of those freaks who actually goes to college, and for four years at that. Wallace too did his time, but was actually not drafted before joining the then-Washington Bullets. He might be accused of rational jealousy; Yao is "unproven" against the rigors of American competition, yet he is eagerly anticipated, while Wallace had to prove his worth. It would be easy to compare Wallace's cynicism with former Chicago Bull Scottie Pippen's disdain for highly coveted Croat Toni Kukoc, who was being lured by the Chicago management with the promise of a hefty contract while Pippen was being "underpaid." Like Wallace, Pippen and teammate Michael Jordan promised to shut down Kukoc during the 1992 Olympics to wake Jerry Krause and company from their dream-

*The reason Wallace had to prove his worth is that he played Division II basketball at Virginia Union, a resume which doesn't compare that favorably to Yao's five years of professional basketball and international competition.*

land, embarrassing their eventual teammate.

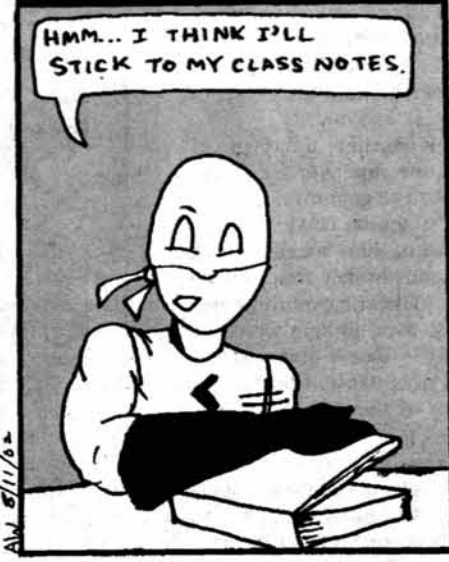
Of course, the reason Wallace had to prove his worth is that he played Division II basketball at Virginia Union, a resume which doesn't compare that favorably to Yao's five years of professional basketball and international competition. Money is no real object either, as rookie contracts are now heavily limited (ironically thanks in part to another 7-foot-plus foreigner, Shawn Bradley), and Yao will have to pay a lot of money through taxes to the PRC and his former team. Jay (nee Jason) Williams, Wallace's USA teammate, would seem the more likely candidate for envy, as he was passed up for Yao in the NBA Draft. Nevertheless it was Williams who gushed over Yao after a recent US-China exhibition, saying, "He blew away my expectations with the way he played."

Well, then what could possibly explain Wallace's comments? Simple: Yao asked for it. Instead of shying from the speculation, he has promised to try and "conquer" Shaquille O'Neal, claims to enjoy attention because it makes him feel like he's "still in China," and after a collision with Wallace in the exhibition, hoped "it didn't hurt him much." (Wallace admitted that Yao, "was a whole lot better than I thought he was.") This is in mark contrast to Wang, who quietly endures all the ribbing he gets from teammates and commentators. As long as Yao's performance can keep up with his mouth, he should be alright. Let him be a lesson to any new hotshots on campus should he fail.



## INTEGRAL FORCE

AHWONG



## FoxTrot by Bill Amend



## Dilbert® by Scott Adams



## Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 8

### ACROSS

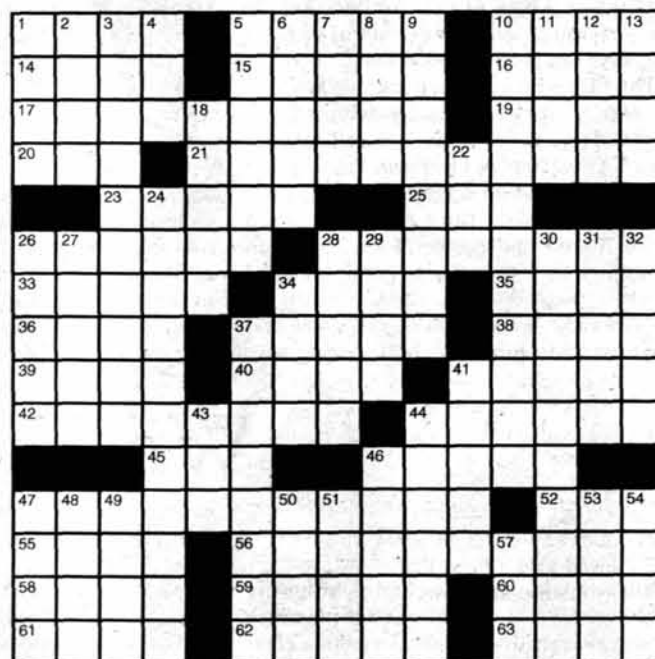
- 1 Faction
- 5 Aromatic conifer
- 10 "Sanctorum"
- 14 Sixth Hebrew month
- 15 Clay-and-straw brick
- 16 Satiated
- 17 Healthful
- 19 Prevalent
- 20 Dallas sch.
- 21 Too boring
- 23 Ways of acting
- 25 Liquor used in grog
- 26 Transport
- 28 Stuffed pastas
- 33 Ram of the zodiac
- 34 Lone
- 35 Pinta's sister ship
- 36 In need
- 37 Supplied hints to

### DOWN

- 1 Insolent rejoinder
- 38 Frosts
- 39 Burden
- 40 Despire
- 41 Afrikaners
- 42 Rapid decline
- 44 Bonus
- 45 Fierce mythical bird
- 46 Winter coat?
- 47 Successful
- 52 Chit
- 55 Panache
- 56 Health-giving
- 58 Brummell or Bridges
- 59 Drive out
- 60 Subterfuge
- 61 Matched groups
- 62 Tender spots
- 63 Mach+ jets

- 2 City on the IJsselmeer
- 3 Defamatory
- 4 Play about Capote
- 5 Dana of "Wayne's World"
- 6 McClurg and Brickell
- 7 Means of access
- 8 Adjoin
- 9 Booked
- 10 Rancorous
- 11 Advertising award
- 12 Vegetarian's staple
- 13 Those in favor
- 18 Portends
- 22 Letters for drunk drivers
- 24 Excessively staid
- 26 Fowl choice
- 27 University of Maine location

- 28 Customary line of travel
- 29 Toward shelter
- 30 Libertine
- 31 Motionless
- 32 Impertinent
- 34 Eastern European
- 37 Resorts to tricks
- 41 Push upward
- 43 Gunslinger holiday
- 44 Spreads news of
- 46 Strong-arm tactics
- 47 Wanes
- 48 Unobstructed
- 49 Decree
- 50 Stephen King's dog?
- 51 Caesar's direction
- 53 Expel
- 54 Applications
- 57 Federal tax agcy.



## Events Calendar

Visit and add events to Events Calendar online at <http://events.mit.edu>

Wednesday, August 28

**9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Loan Note Signing Session.** If you have a Perkins Loan, Direct Stafford Loan or Non-cosigned Technology Loan, you need to sign your loan notes. free. Room: 4-149. Sponsor: Student Financial Services/Loan Services.

**9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Course Catalogue Distribution.** Anyone with an MIT ID can come by Room 8-119 and pick up a copy of the 2002-2003 course catalogue. free. Room: 8-119. Sponsor: Reference Publications Office.

**10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Getting Connected to MITnet.** This lecture will help guide you through the process of configuring your laptop or home computer to connect to MITnet so that you will have access to online services available to MIT community members only. Attendees will learn about the different options they have for connecting to MIT from on and off campus. In addition, all attendees will receive a CD containing the necessary software for accessing MITnet and MIT's online services such as e-mail and WebSIS. This session is highly recommended for all incoming graduate students, visiting scholars, and new faculty and staff. Room: 4-270. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**10:00 a.m. - Admissions Information Session.** Admissions Office Information Session gathers at the Admissions Reception Center (10-100). Enter MIT at the main entrance, Lobby 7, 77 Massachusetts Ave (domed building with tall pillars). Proceed down the center corridor to Room 10-100 on the right. free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, Building 10, Room 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

**10:45 a.m. - Campus Tour.** Student Led Campus Tours are approximately 90 minutes long and provide a general overview of the main campus. Please note that campus tours do not visit laboratories, living groups or buildings under construction. Groups over 15 people need to make special

reservations. Campus tours start at the conclusion of the Admissions Information Session. The Campus Tour begins in Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Artist Behind the Desk Concert.** Mascara. Original rock and roll with Chris Mascara, administrative assistant, Technology and Law Program. free. Room: Stratton Student Center Pavilion. Sponsor: Working Group on Support Staff Issues.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Windows 2000 Quick Start.** This session demonstrates the new features and functionalities of Windows 2000 for the desktop user. In this session, we will tour the Start Menu enhancements summarize the differences between the new My Network Places and the previous Network Neighborhood, meet the Active Desktop, Power Management, and Windows Update features, see how many Control Panel functions have been consolidated, see where NT profiles and Administrative Tools now reside, learn how to set up a printer. We will also explain why Active Directories are not currently allowed at MIT. System administration not covered. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Coffee Hour for the Spouses of Newcomers to MIT.** New spouses can drop in for a snack and opportunity to chat with other families and MIT staff members. There will be a demonstration of the spouses&partners

Newcomers' Frequently Asked Questions Web site and a play space for children. free. Room: Bush Room (10-105). Sponsor: spouses&partners@mit, MIT Medical, MIT Women's League.

**2:00 p.m. - Admissions Information Session.**

**2:45 p.m. - Campus Tour.**

**8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - IFILM Film Seminar.** Screening of an international movie accompanied by a discussion about it. free. Sponsor: International Film Club.



# Students Attend Lecture On Rape

By Brian Loux  
NEWS EDITOR

Members of the Class of 2006 attended a lecture yesterday morning on the topic of sexual abuse and rape prevention, and later participated in breakout discussion sessions with their Orientation leaders.

Katie Koestner, a victim of acquaintance rape her freshman year at the College of William and Mary, spent much of the lecture recalling the events preceding the sexual assault by her first college boyfriend. "Did you ever think that someone's favorite thing would be recalling the worst night of her life?" she asked the audience.

After complaining to campus authorities, she said a dean issued a one-semester restraining order and expressed hope that the couple would get back together.

"I am satisfied for two reasons," she said, "One, that dean is now fired, and two, the deans of your school care enough about your safety to bring me here."

Throughout the talk, Koestner highlighted many of the responses from interviews with college students she met over the years. "One girl told me she always says no even when she does it because she doesn't want to seem like a slut. I'd ask she change the definition of slut before she changes the definition of no."

Near the end of the discussion, she addressed the males in particular: "I have little idea if I have persuaded you in any way," she said. "If you feel that rape is wrong, what would you do to stop it?"

At the end of the talk, a man rose from his seat and said, "Thank you," sparking a standing ovation.

Koestner was unavailable for comment after the speech.

## Speech leads to discussion

After the talk, freshmen broke into their Orientation groups and discussed their reactions to what they had heard and what they consider to be rape.

"Everyone was definitely surprised by the intensity of the story," said Orientation leader Emily T. Chi '04. "Many people felt the story could happen to anyone."

"The entire talk was very moving," said Sisi Chen '06. "I think I cried more than she did." Many males interviewed also agreed that the speech was intense and powerful.

Some students took a harsh stance toward their absent colleagues. "I certainly feel that MIT should require every guy to hear this talk, and punish them if they do not," said Victoria Lee '06.

Tables were also arranged inside the Kresge Auditorium lobby with brochures about rape prevention and local hotline numbers mainly provided by the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center and MIT Medical.

Koestner also spoke at Orientation 2001's discussion on rape.



Freshmen chat and socialize at last night's welcome dinner at Johnson Athletic Center.

DANIEL BERSAK—THE TECH



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## SPRING BREAK '03

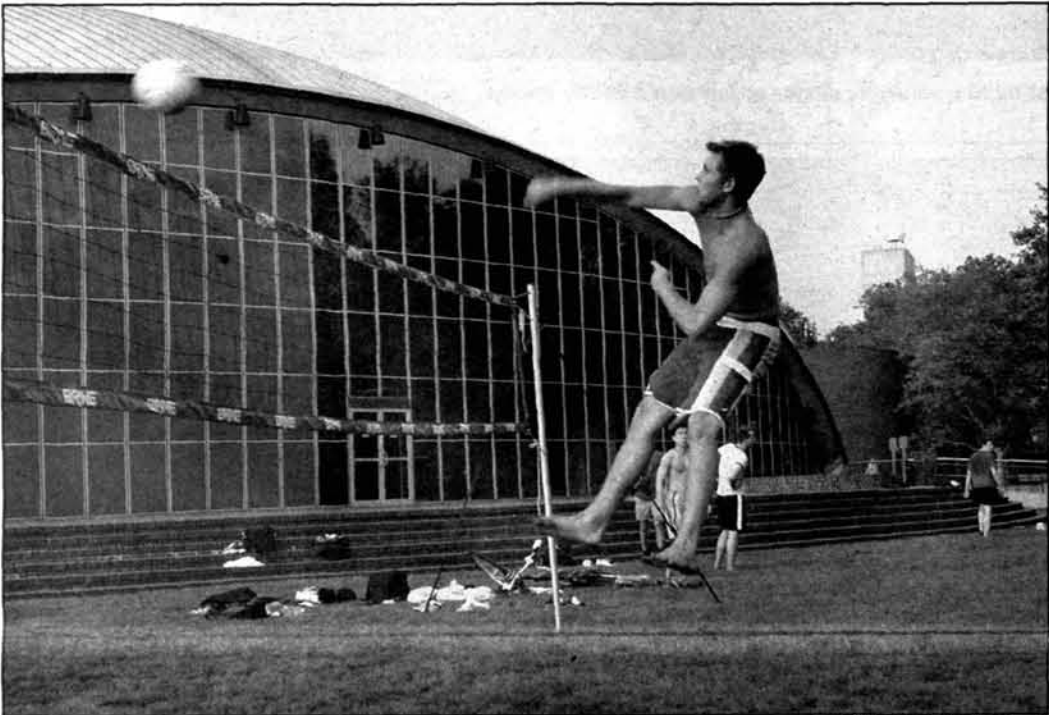
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Have a VERY  
nice day!





Freshmen try out the gigantic pinball machine that residents of East Campus built for rush. The instructions read: "1. Insert Tuition; 2. Press Start; 3. Pull Plunger."



Kai McDonald spikes the ball during an afternoon game of volleyball behind Kresge Auditorium.

# Protests Passionate, But Just Lose Frosh

Protest, from Page 1

not object if students wanted to hand out flyers to students attending events as long as they did so in an orderly fashion and did not disrupt the event proper," he wrote.

## Protests lost on freshmen

The upperclassmen's passionate concerns about the evisceration of Rush seem lost on their target audience of freshmen.

Nadeem A. Mazen '06 said, "I saw the shark, but I didn't know what it was for."

"If they thought anything about it, it was that it was just a part of college life," said Tara R. Diduch '06 of her classmates and the Play-Fair protest.

Shannon E. Turner '06 said of the East Campus anti-mandatory campaign, "I think it's kind of silly; it's kind of extreme."

Redwine said that confusion among freshmen over the meaning of the protests was not surprising. "I think the freshmen haven't participated in some of the history,"

he said.

## Leaders apprehensive on changes

East Campus Rush Chair Emily E. Cofer '03 said that this year's turnout for East Campus Rush events was markedly lower than last year's. She expressed concern that some protest activities may have turned off freshmen who might otherwise consider East Campus.

Other dormitory leaders said they have seen freshmen commit earlier to housing and explore fewer options, in part because of the increased volume of information disseminated over the summer via printed and electronic housing guides.

Kessenich and Bronder both noted satisfying turnouts at their respective dormitories' events, though they said a larger-than-usual proportion of the turnout consisted of freshmen who had already decided on their housing.

"A lot of freshmen were apprehensive about moving across campus," Bronder said.

## Solution to Crossword

from page 6

SECT	CEDAR	ACTA
ADAR	ADOBE	CLOY
SALUBRIOUS	RIFE	
SMU	OVERTEDIOUS	
MODES	RUM	
CONVEY	RAVIOLIS	
ARIES	SOLE	NINA
POOR	CLUED	ICES
ONUS	HATE	BOERS
NOSEDIVE	BOUNTY	
ROC	FROST	
EFFICACIOUS	IOU	
BRIO	NUTRITIOUS	
BEAU	EJECT	RUSE
SETS	SORES	SSTS

# 2006 Mixer


Friday, August 30th  
9:00 PM to Midnight

MIT-Wellesley Class of 2006 Mixer

Student Center, 2nd Floor

Live Jazz, Free Desserts and Refreshments

Questions? clubz@mit.edu  
<http://web.mit.edu/clubz>

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# Coop Balks at Four Percent Commission on MIT Card

**TechCASH**, from Page 1

are more pleased."

LaVerde's previous efforts to begin acceptance of the card were stymied by LaVerde's former competitor Aramark, said John M. McDonald, the assistant director of enterprise services.

For similar reasons, new restaurants are unlikely to be added to the card system in the near future, he said. "We've kind of made an agreement with Campus Dining" not to recruit new restaurants in the near future, McDonald said.

Lower commissions also played a role in LaVerde's acceptance. "When Frank LaVerde was [originally] approached, the percentage was much too high," Semon said. MIT now charges a fee of four percent of each purchase to use the system.

**LSC may soon accept TechCASH**

The Lecture Series Committee has also indicated its interest in accepting the MIT card as payment, but the cost of the system

may be an impediment.

"LSC has wanted to have the card for a long time," said LSC Chairman Alex Rolfe G. But the card reader system required to accept TechCASH costs about \$1,500, McDonald said, in addition to the cost of a dedicated telephone line.

The Student Activities Office may allocate money to help pay for a student-group card reader, McDonald said, and "we will try to spread the cost of the terminal around" by sharing the machine among several groups.

"I suspect there are lots of groups who, like the theater groups, would like to sell tickets on the card," Rolfe said, but LSC has not yet discussed in detail sharing the system with other groups.

Getting LSC on the TechCASH system will take at least a month, the time required to acquire and install the necessary hardware. "I would guess a realistic time frame is between November and [the Independent Activities Period]" in January, Rolfe said.

Rolfe was not concerned about the four percent commission. "Compared to the convenience ... it's small," he said.

**Coop balks at MIT commission**

In contrast, the MIT Coop "had some concerns about" MIT's commission, but will continue negotiating with the card office, said Coop General Manager Allan Powell.

The TechCASH commission rate is more than what the Coop pays for credit cards or the Harvard University "Crimson Cash" system, for which Harvard takes a 2.1 percent commission, he said.

Unlike the Harvard system,

TechCASH allows students and parents to make deposits from credit cards, necessitating the large MIT commission, McDonald said.

Powell said that he wanted students "to think of [the Coop] as a resource," and as such wanted to join the TechCASH system. But "it's probably not going to be [available to students] this semester," he said.

**TechCASH has added features**

The TechCASH system has some additional benefits compared to the old meal card system. Apart from the new businesses participating in the program, the procedure for adding money to an MIT

card has been streamlined. Previously, students filled out forms to make payments, and those payments were handled through MIT Student Account Services. With the new system, students and their parents can make payments on the MIT card Web site, <<http://web.mit.edu/mitcard>>.

Students are not able to withdraw money from their accounts. "When we set up the program, we didn't want to make it like a [bank card]," McDonald said. "We just want to make it easy to use."

Other businesses may soon begin to accept the card, he added, including Kendall Drug in Kendall Square and a dry cleaner.

## Other Schools Begin To Use Essay Exam

**FEE**, from Page 1

cent, received passing scores, meaning that they may take any Communication Intensive Humanities, Arts, or Social Science course (CI-H) during their freshman year.

One hundred ninety-four students received the score of "Writing Subject Required." Each of these students must successfully complete a Communication Intensive HASS Writing (CI-HW) subject during their first year.

Thirty international students earned scores of "English as a Second Language Subject Required." These students must successfully complete the class Expository Writing for Bilingual Students (21F.222) during their freshman year.

The passing rate is up moderately from the 59 percent with last year's FEE, and drastically higher than the typical 20 percent of freshmen passing the FEE in prior years. This is the second year of the new Communications Requirement and an easier FEE, but unlike students passing the older Writing Requirement FEE, students receiving a passing grade on this year's FEE must still take a Communications Intensive HASS course during their freshman year.

Students who received a score of five on either of the two Advanced Placement English examinations were not required to take the FEE, and students who neither fulfilled the communications requirement with an AP test nor took the FEE will automatically be assigned "Writing Subject Required."

**Other colleges use FEE system**

This was the fifth year that the FEE has been offered online. The consortium of universities using the online essay evaluation service this year includes the California Institute of Technology, the University of Cincinnati, Louisiana State University, and DePaul University.

The number of colleges on the

system will increase by more than ten by next summer, and thirty by 2004, Perelman said.

**Feedback important part of FEE**

Freshmen received comments and feedback on their essay submissions along with their grades.

"Students get substantive feedback on their writing," Perelman said. "It's the comments that make it a real educational experience."

Whatever score they received, most students said they valued the feedback specific to their essays.

"What was nice about the online format was that you got comments on specific sentences or details on your essays to help with your writing," said Marta M. Luczynska '06, who passed the test.

Even students who did not pass the exam were positive about the experience. "The results of my FEE were demoralizing, but they were honest," said William A. Reichert '06. "I'm actually glad I have to take the writing course, because I don't really know how to write well. I guess I've been able to slip through the system until now."

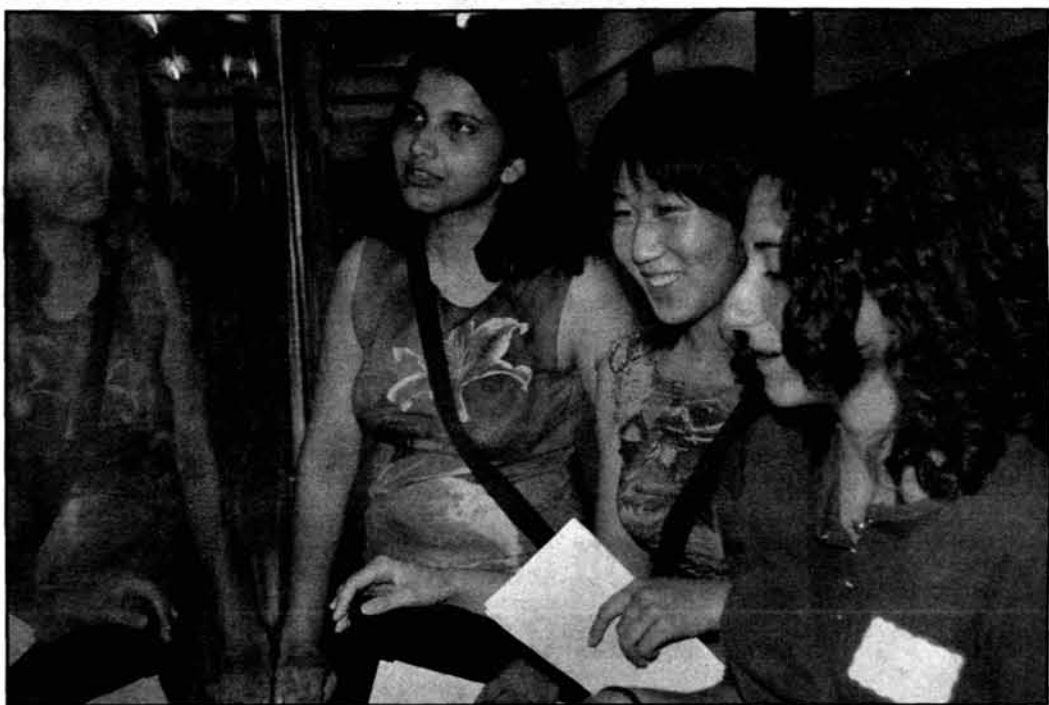
**FEE provides realistic situation**

The online FEE is unlike other online assessment tools because it provides students with a more realistic situation in which to write, Perelman said.

The evaluation process spans the course of a week between registration and essay submission. Students must write two essays answering questions based on two reading passages. They are given three days to read the passages and another three days to write their essays after the questions are posted online.

"I like how they give you so many days to write your essays," Luczynska said.

"The system is still growing and evolving," Perelman said. He says that the system may eventually be expanded to cover tests in other academic fields.



Alison M. Taylor '06, Amy R. Wu '06, and Lakshmi Nambiar '06 locate their freshman advisers from the list posted along the Infinite Corridor.

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EUN J. LEE—THE TECH

Fraternities and Independent Living Groups partitioned La Sala de Puerto Rico into rectangular spaces to meet and gather information from the freshmen Tuesday night.

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## Fraternities Recruit Freshmen at Midway

FSILGs, from Page 1

booths, one for each of the fraternities and independent living groups, the evening also included non-midway activities such as dancing, a karaoke machine, and the most populated booth of the night, a Sodexo dessert and ice cream bar. "Of course I also came for the free food," Davenport said.

### Midway similar to previous years'

Fraternities and independent living groups were given rectangular spaces in La Sala de Puerto Rico to construct booths similar to those of previous years' midways.

"We were given this time to try to expose the freshmen to what our community is, and to also try to throw them a good party," said Associate Interfraternity Council Rush Chair Jonathan S. Hartofilis '04, who was in charge of organizing the event.

Security was increased dramatically from earlier residence midways. "We wanted to preserve the way that Midway used to be in Johnson [Athletic Facility]," Hartofilis said. "To do that, we want to be sure it is only freshmen speaking with the members."

"So far, everything we've done has been the same as previous years," said Jonathan S. Gibbons '04 of Alpha Delta Phi.

Hartofilis said that the true chal-

lenge for FSILGs will come when they realize they are not acting on the same time scale as before. "The month and a half rush can't allow people to keep up the same budget and energy, so it will be a learning experience for everyone," he said.

Only five members of each fraternity or independent living group were allowed in La Sala, and ten total in the student center.

### Panhel rush gets jump start

The Panhellenic section of the event, located on the third floor conference rooms of the Student Center, had less security and less stringent rules.

"This is more about having a presence than recruiting," said Panhellenic Association Rush Chair Sara Pierce '03.

No letters were worn by members. "Our recruitment is not until February ... we will work on recruiting starting around October," she said.

"Sororities seem to be more cohesive than the fraternities," said Darlene E. Ferranti '06.

"I'm surprised they're shoved into this small corner," she said. Panhel was given two of the private dining rooms on the third floor of the student center. "It's like they don't want Panhel to be here," Ferranti said.

The next event for all FSILGs, Greek Week, begins on Sept. 6.



NATHAN COLLINS—THE TECH

The "Sorting Hat" of Harry Potter fame appeared on campus today. When worn, the hat proclaims in which dormitories the wearer should live. The hat was accompanied by directions for use and a message from "Professor Dumbledore" hailing the administration's new assignment method.

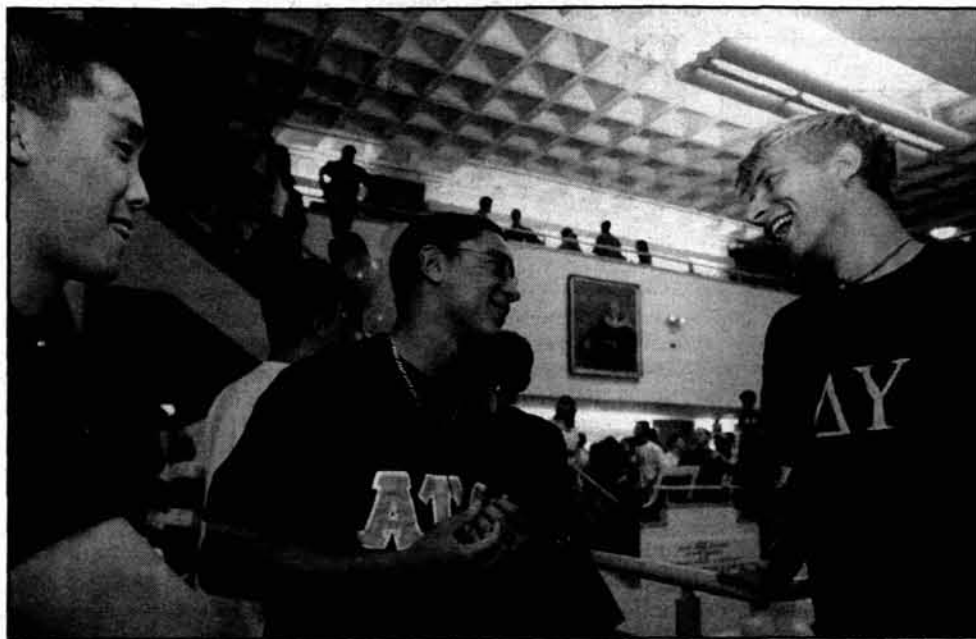




DANIEL BERSAK—THE TECH



DANIEL BERSAK—THE TECH



AARON D. MIHALIK—THE TECH

## Freshmen Meet FSILG Members

(Above) Freshmen enjoy buckets of free ice cream at last night's FSILG-sponsored Welcome Dinner Post-Party in the Student Center. FSILG representatives were allowed to mingle with freshmen in a "no-pressure" manner.

(Top left) Matthew D. Smith '06, Robert P. Reyes '06, Han Xu '06, Nicole Hollingsworth, and April Tam '06 rock out karaoke-style to Sir Mix-A-Lot's "Baby Got Back."

(Bottom left) Students fill the Student Center during the Welcome Dinner Post-Party.

The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.

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